(g) Detonators are placed at specified intervals for all train movement to alert the driver of an approaching signal once fog is declared at a station. This is done by calling Railway staff on duty and rest for working as Fog Signalmen who place detonators whenever a train is expected. After the passage of each train detonator is replaced. The location of such detonators are before the stop signals so that drivers are warned of approaching signals. The process is repeated for the duration of the fog.

Gauge conversion of Jainagar-Darbhanga-Narkatiyagunj rail line

†74. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the stipulated time limit for completing the work of gauge conversion from existing narrow gauge to broad gauge from Jainagar to Darbhanga and to Narkatiyagunj; and

(b) the latest position of progress in the work of gauge conversion at the said railway division?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) On Jayanagar-Sitamarhi (136 km) section, earthwork and bridge works have been taken up. In Sitamarhi-Raxaul-Narkatiaganj section also earthwork has been taken up. Further, gauge conversion from Narkatiaganj to Bhiknathori (35.80 km.) has been approved as part of the project. The work would be progressed and completed in the coming years, as per availability of resources. As outlay of Rs. 20 cr. has been provided for the project in the Budget 2005-06.

Robberies/crimes in trains

75. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a spate of robberies/crimes have been committed in trains;

(b) if so, the details of such robberies/crimes during the last three years;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.